

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 16284

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, GE, US, UK, FR, GW

SUBJECT: INNER-GERMAN NEGOTIATION--TELTOW CANAL

REF: A) USBER 1996; B) USBER 1988

SUMMARY: FRENCH RAISED TELTOW CANAL ISSUE AT OCT 2
BONN GROUP MEETING. EVEN IF SENAT WERE TO RESPOND TO
SCHLIMPER INVITATION BY AGAIN REFERRING TO LIMITATIONS
ON NEGOTIATING AUTHORITY AS STATED IN ALLIED MANDATE,
FRENCH WOULD STILL HAVE DOUBTS ABOUT ALLOWING SENAT TO
BEGIN TALKS WITH GDR. FRENCH WANT RESULTS OF LATEST
GAUS-SCHLIMPER DISCUSSION OF TELTOW ISSUE BEFORE
GIVING GO AHEAD TO SENAT. END SUMMARY

1. FRENCH RAISED OPENING OF TELTOW CANAL AT OCT 2
BONN GROUP MEETING. FRENCH REP (BOISSIEU) OPENED BY
RECALLING LONG AND DIFFICULT HISTORY OF MANDATE,
EMPHASIZING WHAT HE CALLED LONG-STANDING FRENCH POSITION
THAT ONCE ALLIED MANDATE ISSUED IT COULD NOT BE
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REVISED (TO ENHANCE SENAT ROLE). BOISSIEU SAID IT HAD

THUS ALWAYS BEEN FRENCH VIEW THAT GAUS SHOULD FIRST SOUND OUT GDR AS TO WHAT EAST GERMANS WOULD ACCEPT REGARDING RELATIVE SENAT AND FRG ROLES IN NEGOTIATIONS.

2. SITUATION NOW, BOISSIEU SAID, WAS THAT SENAT HAS INFORMED GDR OF LIMITATIONS OF MANDATE, MITDANK TOLD STRUVE IT OUT OF QUESTION TO LIMIT DISCUSSIONS WITH SENAT TO TECHNICAL POINTS, AND SCHLIMPER HAS INVITED SENAT TO BEGIN TALKS ON "ALL MATTERS" REGARDING OPENING OF CANAL BASED ON GDR DECEMBER 9 NOTE. ALSO, GAUS HAS DISCUSSED MATTER WITH SCHLIMPER BUT ALLIES HAVE NOT BEEN TOLD WHAT TRANSPIRED.

3. US AND UK REPS SAID THEY UNDERSTOOD SENAT'S INTENTION WAS TO RESPOND TO SCHLIMPER INVITATION BY REFERRING TO ITS EARLIER MESSAGE WHICH LIMITED SENAT ROLE TO TECHNICAL ASPECTS. IF GDR AGREED TO GO AHEAD WITH MEETING, THE IMPLICATION WAS THAT THE EAST GERMANS WERE IN AGREEMENT TO LIMIT THE SCOPE OF THE TALKS, OR AT LEAST THE SENAT COULD SO CLAIM. BOISSIEU SAID HE WOULD STILL HAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE SENAT OPENING DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GDR ON TELTOW. THE OUTCOME OF THE GAUS-SCHLIMPER TALKS MUST FIRST BE KNOWN. US REP AGREED THAT THIS INFORMATION WOULD BE USEFUL, BUT INDICATED THIS SHOULD NOT HOLD UP OPENING OF TALKS ON BASIS OUTLINED ABOVE.

4. FRG REP (HENZE) SAID HE WOULD REPORT THE FRENCH POSITION AND COME BACK TO MATTER AT EARLY DATE.

5. COMMENT: TELTOW TALKS HAVE THUS BECOME STUCK EVEN BEFORE THEY OPENED. FRENCH ARE REALLY DUG IN ON MATTER OF HAVING RESULTS OF GAUS-SCHLIMPER TALKS AND WE SEE NO PROSPECT OF ANY GIVE. IT SEEMS TO US THAT FRENCH TACTIC IS TO EXPOSE LIKELY GDR OPPOSITION TO ANY FRG ROLE IN TALKS AND THUS SCUTTLE NEGOTIATIONS BEFORE THEY OPEN. THIS WOULD AVOID SENAT/GDR TALKS WHICH OVER LONG PERIOD COULD EVOLVE INTO DEFINITIVE NEGOTIATIONS WITH NO ROLE FOR FRG. END COMMENT
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